

**Amendment No. 1 to HJR0071**

**Henry  
Signature of Sponsor**

**AMEND <SB>**

**HJR 71**

**FILED**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Time \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk \_\_\_\_\_

Comm. Amdt. \_\_\_\_\_

By deleting the seventh clause in the preamble in its entirety and by substituting the following:

WHEREAS, at the conclusion of his regular U.S. Army service in 1970, Mr. Furgess joined the Tennessee National Guard, serving in the Intelligence section of the 30<sup>th</sup> Armored Division and spending 20 years with the 194<sup>th</sup> Engineering Brigade, before retiring with the rank of Colonel in 1993; in 1970 he joined VFW Post 1970 in Nashville, quickly rising to positions of leadership in the VFW, serving as Post Commander, District Commander, and, in 1978, Department (State) Commander, the first Tennessee Vietnam veteran to hold that office. He attended the U. S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1979, and was elected a member of the VFW National Council of Administration for 1999-2001; and

And further amend by inserting clauses in the preamble following the new seventh clause as follows:

WHEREAS, on August 30, 2002, at the VFW's 103rd national convention in Nashville, Tennessee, John Furgess was elected Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the VFW, becoming only the second Tennessean to have been elected to that office; in August of 2003 he succeeded to the office of Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief at the VFW's national convention in San Antonio; and

WHEREAS, as national Commander-in-Chief, Mr. Furgess has set a brisk pace, meeting with Secretary of State Colin Powell and Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge to outline key VFW legislative issues and programs, visiting the wounded at the National Naval Medical Center at Bethesda, Maryland, and leading the VFW in celebrating 105 years of service to veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, on a trip to Russia to meet with American and Russian officials in charge of the search for missing and unaccounted-for Americans from past wars, John

Furgess met with key military members of the Defense Attaché and Political-Military offices, as well as with the U.S. Ambassador to the Russian Federation, Alexander Vershbow, who expressed his appreciation for the VFW's continued support of America's full accounting mission; and

WHEREAS, while in Russia, Mr. Furgess met with the senior members of the Combat Brotherhood, a Russian veterans' organization of 2.5 million members who participated in more than 36 wars and conflicts after the end of World War II; the Combat Brotherhood seeks to learn how to petition their government for veterans' health care and related benefits. The VFW and the Combat Brotherhood have issued a joint denouncement of international terrorism and called upon the leaders of the world's veterans' organizations to join in solidarity in opposing terrorism across the globe; and

WHEREAS, John Furgess met with U.S. Ambassador George H. Walker in Budapest, Hungary, where he learned that two American aircraft crash sites from World War II have been located in Hungary and will be excavated in 2005 by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command to determine the fate of the crew members; he also paid his respects at the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery in Italy; and

WHEREAS, John Furgess is a life member of the Disabled American Veterans, AMVETS, and the Retired Officers Association, as well as a long-time member of the American Legion and the Americal Division Veterans Association; he has served on the Veterans Employment and Training Service Advisory Committee of the U.S. Department of Labor; and